



# City of Margate

5790 Margate Boulevard  
Margate, FL 33063  
954-972-6454  
www.margatefl.com

## Meeting Minutes Regular City Commission Meeting

*Mayor Antonio V. Arserio*  
*Vice Mayor Anthony N. Caggiano*  
*Commissioners:*  
*Tommy Ruzzano, Arlene R. Schwartz, Joanne Simone*

*City Manager Cale Curtis*  
*Interim City Attorney Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman*  
*City Clerk Jennifer M. Johnson*

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Wednesday, April 20, 2022

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us  
Webinar ID: 831 7959 9946

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83179599946>

### CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Joanne Simone, Commissioner Arlene R. Schwartz, Commissioner Tommy Ruzzano, Vice Mayor Anthony N. Caggiano and Mayor Antonio V. Arserio

### MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 1) PRESENTATION(S)

- A. [ID 2022-194](#) RECOGNITION OF VICE MAYOR ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO FOR COMPLETING THE 2022 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY I EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

MAYOR ANTONIO V. ARSERIO explained this Item.

VICE MAYOR ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO spoke on this Item.

### ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

- B. [ID 2022-174](#) SOCCER, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, FLAG FOOTBALL: HERDY CLERMONT, 14 YEARS OLD (Margate Middle School)

### EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

- C. [ID 2022-111](#) BRIDGLAL S. GANGOO, SERVICE WORKER - PARKS AND RECREATION - 20 YEARS

JEAN ALIX CHERESTAL, VAN DRIVER - SENIOR CENTER - 15 YEARS

JOSHUA MANUEL MILA, FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC - FIRE DEPARTMENT

- 10 YEARS

MICHAEL STEVEN SPROUSE, POLICE OFFICER - POLICE DEPARTMENT - 5 YEARS

## 2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MAYOR ARSERIO explained the protocols for Public Discussion.

JESSE NELSON, 7832 SUNFLOWER DRIVE, discussed his concerns on the proposed redevelopment of Centennial Park. He also suggested installing American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible speed bumps in his area.

COMMISSIONER TOMMY RUZZANO responded to Mr. Nelson's comments.

MAYOR ARSERIO responded to Mr. Nelson's comments.

MARGATE RESIDENT, ROYAL SPRINGS SOUTH, read a statement about Centennial Park and asked the City to reconsider the proposal.

LESLEY A. WILLIAMS, 7834 SUNFLOWER DRIVE, discussed Centennial Park.

ADRIAN H. WILLIAMS, 7834 SUNFLOWER DRIVE, read a letter about Centennial Park.

MAYOR ARSERIO responded to Mr. Williams' and his son, Adrian's comments.

TRACY VAN WINKLE, 1020 SW 61ST AVENUE, commented on:

- Speeding on Southgate Boulevard;
- Northwest Hospital;
- Discussed extra traffic and said that Margate was too congested and referenced State Road 7/441;
- The Community Clean-Up;
- Lack of lighting at the Dollar Tree Plaza on Southgate Boulevard and 441 at night;
- Green debris left at Checkers Plaza;
- Checkers sign being damaged after a car accident; and
- Debris left from an accident West of Southgate Boulevard.

DONNA L. FELLOWS, 6108 NW 9TH COURT; discussed installing a new sidewalk.

RICHARD ZUCCHINI, 380 LAKEWOOD CIRCLE E, discussed speeding and referenced an inexpensive solution of Traffic Rumble Strips. He also discussed sidewalks and driveways as well as poor lighting at the City's plazas.

LAUREN BERACHA, 6950 NW 14TH PLACE, PARADISE GARDENS III, asked for reconsideration to allow residents to speak on Zoom at the City Commission meetings. She wished Commissioner Schwartz well.

MARGATE RESIDENT, ROYAL SPRINGS SOUTH, admired the presentation that many of his fellow residents had made pertaining to Centennial Park and continued to discuss the proposed project.

MAYOR ARSERIO responded to comments.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO responded to comments.

Discussion ensued on Centennial Park.

COMMISSIONER ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ, discussed Centennial Park.

JOANNE DIAZ, 7623 SUNFLOWER DRIVE, discussed a previous petition she was involved with and referenced reconsidering the Centennial Park.

NINA CULVER wanted to bring the resident's attention to the Police contract negotiations.

MAYOR ARSERIO responded to Ms. Culver's comments.

JOSEPH E. LETAVISH, 7689 HIGHLANDS CIRCLE, sought an update on the condition of the golf course as it was not being properly maintained.

MAYOR ARSERIO responded to Mr. Letavish's comments.

Discussion ensued.

ALENA L. WILLIAMS, 7834 SUNFLOWER DRIVE, informed that she had received 193 signatures from her neighborhood within one week.

### 3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE congratulated Vice Mayor Caggiano on this evening's award and staff featured on the Employee Recognition for Years of Service. She thanked the Margate Rescue Team as well as the Police Department on behalf of a grateful resident. She said that she had communicated to every email received pertaining to Centennial Park and discussed the same. She listed upcoming City events. She hoped that Commissioner Schwartz's recovery was going well and that she would be back on her feet soon. She thanked Public Works and said that they were phenomenal in addressing issues and getting things done for residents.

COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ thanked everyone who was concerned about her health. She did not see a problem with the residents partaking in the City Commission meetings via Zoom and hoped that the City Commission would reconsider that decision. She discussed Code issues.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO advised that it was Autism Awareness Month. He spoke about Rising Tide Car Wash that was built in Margate and that they were hiring autistic children. He received a call from a representative of Margate Elementary School pertaining to the use of the \$2,500 from the Margate Mayor's Fitness Challenge. He explained that the representative requested the discretionary use of the funds for the Principal to use towards the end of the year parties and asked the City Commission for CONSENSUS.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission allowing the three Margate elementary schools to split \$2,500 to be used for the end of the year party (for the children) from the Mayor's Fitness Challenge budget.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO discussed the success of the Mayor's Community

Clean-Up. He advised that The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Florida Department of Transport (FDOT) were doing a lighting project from Sample Road to Hallandale Beach and questioned City Manager Curtis whether this would include Margate.

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS explained that there were certain areas of Margate where FDOT paid the City a monthly or annual stipend. They were working with their contracts to get those lights repaired.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO questioned if the City had a program that allowed people to do community service hours or Court ordered community service hours.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS informed that he would look into it.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO received numerous phone calls about speed humps over at Margate Boulevard from Royal Palm Boulevard to Margate Elementary. He discussed his support for the public safety personnel and referenced the kids and a shade meeting. He also discussed Margate's increased budget and indicated that the City would need to create new incoming revenue initiatives and referenced Margate's 20 miles of canals. He explained that the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) together with the City had a piece of property across the street which they were looking to develop and referenced the previous proposal of 960 low income housing.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO discussed providing fairness in terms of timekeeping for public speaking. He hoped that everyone had a good holiday whatever their faith may be. He highlighted the success of the Springtime Egg Hunt at Margate's Sports Complex and informed that Republic Services provided the shaved ice. He congratulated City Clerk Johnson on her new career with Margate.

MAYOR ARSERIO thanked everyone who attended to discuss Centennial Park and referenced the forthcoming City Commission Workshop. He thanked those who attended the Mayor's Community Clean-Up. He also thanked Legacy Healing for being their first sponsor and Chen Senior Medical Center who sent approximately 15 volunteers to the event. He discussed future sponsorship and referenced future service hours. He expressed his excitement for the grand opening of Vinson Park which he said was probably the biggest game changer. He informed that they were moving along internally with their Multicultural board and referenced the potential of an international festival. He said that a few members of the community reached out to him about looking for a need for amenities to cater for cricket. He advised that cricket was the second largest sport in the world and discussed his phone call with a private donor for a future project. He discussed the Fire and Police contracts where negotiations took place every three years and indicated his request for a general Workshop. He discussed revenue initiatives that were coming into the City.

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY DAVID N. TOLCES explained that he would need to review the matter of a Workshop pertaining to Fire and Police salaries and benefits as certain processes were governed by State Law and he would need to check if the City was in compliance with that.

MAYOR ARSERIO sought CONSENSUS if the City was allowed to have a meeting to

talk about certain items that related to their contracts at a future Workshop.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to allow for a Workshop for Police and Fire in regards to their salary and benefits, if deemed legal by the City Attorney. There were no objections stated.

#### 4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no City Manager report.

Meeting went into Recess.

Meeting Reconvened.

Item 7B. was heard before Consent Agenda.

#### 7) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

##### B. [ID 2022-197](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - REPUBLIC SERVICES

CITY MANAGER CURTIS advised that the City was approximately 75 days into their contract with Republic Services (RS) and discussed the transitional issues that had occurred almost daily. He said that they would discuss RS's contract performance and the number of the terms of that contract and a corrective action plan for moving forward.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (DEES) DIRECTOR CURT KEYSER advised that the City was approximately 75 days into an eight year contract. He highlighted some of the problem areas which included the vendor waiting delivery of new vehicles which they anticipated receiving by August 2022 and that the contract contained a termination for cause clause but not a termination for convenience clause and asked for patience. He discussed the complaints received and advised that his department was working with RS staff to work through these issues and he also provided an email address where the public could log their complaint. He advised that replacing the current vendor would not immediately resolve the issue.

Discussion ensued on logging complaints.

DEES DIRECTOR CURT KEYSER continued to discuss issues concerning RS. He recommended that the City should give RS a little time and for them to obtain their required equipment and trucks and to get the commercial driver trained. He also advised that they should proceed with the current contract as it would document the non-compliance of the contract and provide substantiation for any potential future claim or default. He also recommended that they should revisit their performance on or about September 1st and said that if they do review this further, they could memorialize the review with an assessment signed by the Mayor.

Discussion ensued with a question and answer session between the City Commission and DEES Director Keyser. Topics included billing methods for RS such as placing a scale on the truck, garbage cans being left in the middle of the street, a welcome pack for residents on RS, administrative fees, uptick in complaints from commercial property



owners and bulk pick-up.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to move forward and work with Republic Services.

REPUBLIC SERVICES GENERAL MANAGER, JEAN-PIERRE TURGOT, 751 NW 31ST AVENUE, LAUDERHILL, thanked the City for the opportunity to come before the City Commission. He said that RS was committed to doing the right thing and outlined the problems that they had which included staffing problems as well as addressing some of the problems that they had received.

Discussion ensued between General Manager Turgot, the City Commissioners and DEES Director Keyser.

MS. FELLOWS apologized to City Manager Curtis. She also discussed problems with RS and said that they should be held accountable.

MR. ZUCCHINI, discussed the length of time to replace trucks and requested a date certain. He also highlighted problems with bulk pick up and broken garbage cans since RS took over and suggested the introduction of door hangers to educate the public.

MS. WINKLE alleged that RS dumped beer bottle dumpsters at night time. She also discussed education and training for RS drivers, the trucks damaging the garbage cans and the City entering into an eight year contract.

JEFFREY BALABAN, 7409 PARKSIDE LN., explained that he was very active on social media where he read all the complaints. He discussed issues on his street and the lack of upkeep of garbage maintenance at nearby restaurants.

MS. BERACHA said that she was on a board where she received many phone calls pertaining to broken garbage cans.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to move forward and work with Republic Services.

## 5) CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed under Consent Agenda are viewed to be routine and the recommendation will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. If discussion is desired by the Commission, the item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately. Anyone wishing to comment on any item on the Consent Agenda should approach the podium now. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes.

- A. [ID 2022-175](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: MARCH 2, 2022 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING AND MARCH 9, 2022 SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING.

**APPROVED**

- B. [ID 2022-186](#) RESOLUTION - DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND APPROPRIATE

CITY OFFICIALS TO REVIEW ALL CITY CONTRACTS AND VENDORS TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY WITH ALL FEDERAL SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA AND CONFIRM THE CITY IS NOT DOING BUSINESS WITH RUSSIAN COMPANIES; DIRECTING THE DIVESTMENT OF INVESTMENTS IN RUSSIA AND WITH RUSSIAN-RELATED INSTITUTIONS, COMPANIES OR ENTITIES, AND INDIVIDUALS; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**APPROVED**

## Approval of the Consent Agenda

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner Schwartz, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Schwartz, Commissioner Ruzzano, Vice Mayor Caggiano and Mayor Arserio

## 6) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2022-148](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING ELECTION OF STANDARD ALLOWANCE FOR REVENUE LOSS OF \$10 MILLION TO PROVIDE FOR PROJECTS AND SERVICES WITH AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner Schwartz, that this Resolution, should be discussed.**

COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ referenced a letter addressed to Finance Director Beazley dated May 19th, 2021 and queried whether the amount specified was in addition to this item.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS confirmed that the amount specified in the letter referred to how the City received their allocations of funds in increments.

MAYOR ARSERIO reiterated that they were going to put the \$10,000,000 towards revenue loss which was one of the allowable uses for The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

**The motion carried as follows:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Schwartz, Commissioner Ruzzano, Vice Mayor Caggiano and Mayor Arserio

- B. [ID 2022-166](#) APPROVING APPOINTMENT OF CITY OF MARGATE DIRECTOR, FIRST ALTERNATE, AND SECOND ALTERNATE TO THE BROWARD LEAGUE OF CITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2022-2023.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO said that he would like to put his name in as the delegate (Director).

COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ indicated that she would be happy to be the First Alternate.

MAYOR ARSERIO discussed this Item.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO said that he would not mind being the Second Alternate.

The positions were confirmed as follows:

Director - Anthony N. Caggiano  
First Alternate - Arlene R. Schwartz  
Second Alternate - Tommy Ruzzano

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner Schwartz, to approve the Resolution with the names as presented. This carried as follows:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Schwartz, Commissioner Ruzzano, Vice Mayor Caggiano and Mayor Arserio.

## 7) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

**A. [ID 2022-165](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - BROWARD LEAGUE OF CITIES 65TH ANNUAL GALA, SCHEDULED FOR MAY 13, 2022.**

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO explained that they had a new President being sworn in who was from a neighboring city and said that it was important to work with others. He indicated that it would be insulting for Margate not to do this in the President's first term.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS confirmed that Commissioner Ruzzano, Vice Mayor Caggiano, Mayor Arserio and himself would all be attending the Florida Redevelopment Academy (FRA) class on May 13th.

Discussion ensued.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Caggiano, seconded by Mayor Arserio, approved to spend up to the sum of \$2,500. This carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Schwartz, Commissioner Ruzzano, Vice Mayor Caggiano and Mayor Arserio

**C. [ID 2022-200](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR AN ELECTED MAYOR**

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO advised that this Item would have to be a Charter change and that it would also have to go before the residents to vote upon. He explained the current protocol in selecting a City Mayor and Vice Mayor and that there were only three of the 31 cities in Broward County that did it this way. He believed that it was best for the



residents to pick the Mayor and his proposal was to put the language on the ballot for this year and suggested that this could take effect in 2028 when four out of the five City Commissioners would not be serving any longer.

MAYOR ARSERIO informed that this Item was previously discussed at a recent City Commission Workshop and explained the City's protocols for putting an Ordinance together as it was time certain and would eventually have to go to the Supervisor of Elections (SOE). He advised that this Item was not for a strong Mayor but the position would still have the same authorities that they currently have and believed that the residents should make that decision. He advised that four of the current City Commissioners would no longer be serving the City because of term limits and he wanted to ensure that whatever seat becomes the Mayor's seat, it would be those four seats and not the one seat that would still be serving the City. He advised that he would like to see it every four years with term limits matching Commissioners.

Discussion ensued on the length of the term for a Mayor.

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES informed that the proposed language would have to be included in the Ordinance that the City Commissioners would consider, most likely in May, if they wanted to get it completed in time for presentation of the SOE so that it can get on the ballot this year.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE explained that in order to make an intelligent decision, many things would need to be ironed out before it was voted upon. She referenced term limits and questioned if there would be an increase in salary, the cost of putting this Item on the ballot and she also asked whether there was a need to change the current protocol for selecting a City Mayor. She believed that four years was too long for a serving City Mayor and raised a number of other questions and concerns as to why they were making decisions for a future City Commission at this stage.

Discussion ensued including the proposed City Mayor's salary, term limits and the cost of putting this Item on the ballot.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO informed that they had organized it this way for 65 years and did not see any reason to change it.

COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ had a concern about having a Charter amendment question that was approved or not approved and said that the time lapse was a little much and referenced 2028.

Discussion ensued.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ruzzano, seconded by Mayor Arserio, to direct staff to start preparation of an Ordinance that would provide for a Charter Amendment Referendum and that would be presented at the November 2022 Election with respect to an Elected Mayor.**

MR. ZUCCHINI made the assertion that any City Commissioner that was not in favor of this Item was doing it from a selfish point of view and that they would not be eligible to be elected for a Mayor run.

ELSA J. SANCHEZ, 6930 NW 15TH STREET, initially thought that this Item was a good idea but had a change of opinion after she analyzed the same.

MS. VAN WINKLE believed that a two year term was good but suggested that if a City Commissioner wanted to run for Mayor, they should give up their Commission seat. She indicated that this Item should go on the 2022 ballot and informed that if that was not possible, the Mayor seat should go on a rotation.

MS. FELLOWS believed that the residents should vote as they were the City Commissioners' bosses and that the candidate should be left open for anyone to apply within Margate.

MS. CULVER explained that it was difficult for a Mayor to accomplish anything major in a year or two years. She believed that they should elect a Mayor for four years and that it should go on the ballot in 2022 for 2024.

Discussion ensued.

**The motion carried as follows:**

**Yes:** 3 - Commissioner Schwartz, Commissioner Ruzzano and Mayor Arserio

**No:** 2 - Commissioner Simone and Vice Mayor Caggiano

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards

  
Jennifer M. Johnson, City Clerk

Date: 5/19/2022

PLEASE NOTE:

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, the person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Anyone desiring a verbatim transcript shall have the responsibility, at his/her own expense, to arrange for the transcript.

[Appendix A – Zoning – Section 3.3] Any representation made before any City Board, any Administrative Board, or the City Commission in the application for a variance, special exception, conditional use or request for any other permit shall be deemed a condition of the granting of the permit. Should any representation be false or should said representation not be continued as represented, same shall be deemed a violation of the permit and a violation of this section.

Any person with a disability requiring auxiliary aids and services for this meeting may call the City Clerk's office at (954) 972-6454 with their request at least two business days prior to the meeting date.

One or more members of the City of Margate advisory boards may be in attendance and may participate at the meeting.

Members of the public are invited to view this meeting through Zoom using Webinar ID: 831 7959 9946 or can listen via telephone by calling one of the following phone numbers: US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099.

- A copy of the Agenda for this Meeting is posted on [www.MargateFL.com](http://www.MargateFL.com) and on the main bulletin board outside City Hall located at 5790 Margate Blvd, Margate, FL 33063.

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